



FA Tesco Women's Premier League
Northern Division
Wednesday 12th September 2007
at Roundwood Pavillion (kick off 7.15pm)

Rotherham United LFC vs Sheffield Wednesday LFC



Welcome to Roundwood Pavilion for this evening's FA Tesco Women's Premier League Northern Division fixture between Rotherham United and Sheffield Wednesday.

A warm welcome to our visitors from Sheffield Wednesday, who lie ourselves, have lost 2-0 to Preston North End and been beaten 6-3 at home by Newcastle United over the course of the last two Sundays.

Wednesday lost 4-2 at Aston Villa in their opening game, but bounced back to beat Tranmere Rovers 4-1 in their other match so far. Indeed, with 24 goals from three games here and 14 from the two Wednesday have played at home, South Yorkshire is well and truly the goal-fest capital of the FAWPL!

Last Sunday's home game against Newcastle was not too dis-similar to Wednesday's League Cup encounter with Newcastle a week earlier.

For the first time this season we managed to score first – through Helen Lynskey, but the joy was very shortlived as within 60 seconds of play resuming Newcastle had levelled, Kayla Carter the scorer and it was not long before Mel Reay had struck twice to put Newcastle 3-1 ahead. Suzanne Davis reduced it to 3-2, Ruth Sutcliffe restored Newcastle's two goal cushion and then Hayley Wood pegged Newcastle back to just a one goal advantage going into the break.

Sutcliffe and Carter added to their tally in the second half to give Newcastle their first points of the campaign.

Will tonight's game be another goal glut or will defences come out on top and we get treated to a boring 0-0?

ROTHERHAM UNITED LFC CLUB CONTACTS

Jim Lynskey	Chairman	07944-136168
Karen Smith	Secretary	07940-919266
Shirley Pollock	Treasurer	07791-146179
Julie Sloan	Fundraising	07707-216749
Bev Jenkinson	Head Coach	07795-398041
Val Hoyle	Development Manager	07841-748830
Jodie Ball	Physiotherapist	07793-052968
Jo Broadhurst	Fitness coach	

Official web-site

www.rulfc.co.uk

Today's first Northern

Division derby of the season is the first League encounter between the two clubs, possibly ever, but if there have previous league meetings, these were certainly a long time ago.

The clubs have met in cup action in both the last two seasons with honours even at one win each.

Last season it was Sheffield Wednesday who prevailed with a quarter-final victory here in the Sheffield & Hallam County FA Women's Cup.

At 4-2 up early in extra time the odds favoured Rotherham reaching the last four, but despite producing one of the best displays of the season, they were pegged back by a late equaliser and then suffered the heartbreak of losing the penalty shoot out.

Sarah Thickett, Clare Needham and captain Suzanne Davis, who scored her brace in extra time, were on target for Rotherham, while a hat trick from Rachel Skeemer and an own goal accounted for Wednesday's tally.

The 2005-2006 FA Nationwide Women's Cup second round tie saw Rotherham record a 2-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday at Staveley.

Helen Lynskey opened direct from a free kick after 5 minutes. Claire Needham soon added the second, while Sarah Abrahams netted for Wednesday just before the interval.

Sheffield Wednesday

opened this season's Northern Division campaign at Aston Villa where Sarah Smith and an own goal were not enough to deny the hosts who won 4-2.

The following weekend saw Wednesday at home to Tranmere who went ahead in the second half, but a brace each from Rachel Skeemer and Sarah Smith saw Wednesday storm back for a 4-1 win.

Newcastle had to concede ground advantage for the League Cup preliminary round tie, but it proved the first of two 6-3 wins on the trot for them in South Yorkshire.

Nicola Devine opened, but Sarah Hobson levelled direct from a free kick. Newcastle enjoyed a 2-1 interval advantage thanks to Ruth Sutcliffe. Kayla Carter struck twice early in the second half to seemingly have Newcastle comfortably in the next round, but Wednesday hit back with goals from Beth Gingell and Shelley Donohoe and it looked like it would make for an interesting finale and possibly extra time.

However, a second for Sutcliffe and Sarah Bennett quickly ended the home fightback.

Since last season Wednesday have lost Emma Glenc and Lisa Sandys, but signed Christina Skull and Laura Windle (both from Chesterfield) with Rachel Rutherford and the returning Clare Bratton moving from Doncaster Parklands Rovers.

The open-age squad, including those eligible for the reserves, has seen further newcomers in Emily Clements and Gemma White (both Sheffield United) and Nat Froggatt (Steel City Wanderers).

FA Tesco Women's Premier League

(up to and including Sunday 9th September 2007)

Northern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1 Preston North End	4	4	0	0	8	1	12
2 Lincoln City	3	3	0	0	13	2	9
3 Nottingham Forest	3	3	0	0	11	4	9
4 Aston Villa	4	3	0	1	14	8	9
5 Stockport County	4	3	0	1	9	6	9
6 Sunderland	3	1	1	1	6	8	4
7 Newcastle United	3	1	0	2	8	8	3
8 Sheffield Wednesday	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
9 Tranmere Rovers	4	1	0	3	6	15	3
10 Manchester City	4	0	1	3	5	11	1
11 Crewe Alexandra	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
12 Rotherham United	4	0	0	4	7	19	0

AWAY TEAM													
HOME TEAM	Aston Villa	Crewe Alexandra	Lincoln City	Manchester City	Newcastle United	Nottingham Forest	Preston North End	Rotherham United	Sheffield Wednesday	Stockport County	Sunderland	Tranmere Rovers	
Aston Villa		Oct-10	P-P	Feb-10	Jan-27	Oct-21	Nov-25	Dec-09	4-2	1-2	Nov-11	5-2	
Crewe Alexandra	Sep-12		Oct-28	Sep-23	Nov-11	P-P	Feb-03	Jan-27	Dec-16	Feb-10	1-3	Nov-25	
Lincoln City	Feb-17	Jan-13		Nov-18	Sep-16	Sep-13	Jan-20	Oct-21	Dec-09	Oct-07	5-1	Feb-03	
Manchester City	2-4	Dec-09	Jan-27		Oct-21	Oct-07	Oct-10	Jan-13	Sep-16	Nov-11	2-2	Feb-17	
Newcastle United	Nov-18	Jan-20	Nov-25	Dec-16		Feb-03	1-3	Oct-07	Oct-28	P-P	Sep-12	Sep-23	
Nottingham Forest	Dec-16	Feb-17	Oct-10	3-0	2-1		Nov-18	Feb-10	Jan-20	Nov-25	Sep-23	Oct-28	
Preston North End	Sep-16	1-0	Nov-11	Sep-12	Feb-10	Jan-27		2-0	Oct-07	Sep-23	Oct-28	Dec-16	
Rotherham United	Sep-23	Nov-18	Dec-16	Oct-28	3-6	3-6	Feb-17		Sep-12	1-5	Nov-25	Jan-20	
Sheffield Wednesday	Feb-03	Oct-21	Sep-23	Nov-25	Jan-13	Nov-11	0-2	Oct-10		Jan-27	Feb-17	4-1	
Stockport County	Oct-28	2-1	0-3	Jan-20	Feb-17	Sep-16	Dec-09	Feb-03	Nov-18		Dec-16	Oct-10	
Sunderland	Jan-20	Oct-07	Feb-10	Feb-03	Oct-10	Dec-09	Jan-13	Sep-16	P-P	Oct-21		Nov-18	
Tranmere Rovers	Oct-07	Sep-16	1-5	2-1	Dec-09	Jan-13	Oct-21	Nov-11	Feb-10	Sep-13	Jan-27		

ROTHERHAM UNITED LFC - RESULTS & SCORERS 2006-2007

FA Tesco Women's Premier League - Northern Division

match no.	date	opponents	Venue	Result	Score F-A	Scorers
1	19-Aug	STOCKPORT COUNTY	H	L	1-5	Longstone
2	26-Aug	NOTTINGHAM FOREST	H	L	3-6	Lynskey 2, Wood
3	2-Sep	Preston North End	a	L	0-2	
4	9-Sep	NEWCASTLE UNITED	H	L	3-6	Lynskey, Davies, Wood
5	12-Sep	SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY	H			*** Wednesday evening fixture ***
6	16-Sep	Sunderland	a			
7	23-Sep	ASTON VILLA	H			
LC 1	30-Sep	PORTSMOUTH	H			
8	7-Oct	Newcastle United	a			
9	10-Oct	Sheffield Wednesday	a			*** Wednesday evening fixture ***
	14-Oct					
10	21-Oct	Lincoln City	a			
11	28-Oct	MANCHESTER CITY	H			
	4-Nov					
12	11-Nov	Tranmere Rovers	a			
13	18-Nov	CREWE ALEXANDRA	H			
14	25-Nov	SUNDERLAND	H			
FAC 3	2-Dec					RULFC enter here
15	9-Dec	Aston Villa	a			
16	16-Dec	LINCOLN CITY	H			
FAC 4	6-Jan					
17	13-Jan	Manchester City	a			
18	20-Jan	TRANMERE ROVERS	H			
19	27-Jan	Crewe Alexandra	a			
20	3-Feb	Stockport County	a			
21	10-Feb	Nottingham Forest	a			
22	17-Feb	PRESTON NORTH END	H			
FA Tesco Women's Premier League Cup						
Dates of rounds Preliminary round - 2nd September, 1st round - 30th September, 2nd round - 14th October						
FA Women's Cup, sponsored by E.ON						
Dates of rounds RULFC enter at 3rd round proper - 2nd December						
Sheffield & Hallamshire County FA Women's Challenge Cup						
Dates of rounds 1st round - 18th November, 2nd round - 20th January						

TESCO
Every little helps



ROTHERHAM UNITED 3 NEWCASTLE UNITED 6 **WHAT THEY SAID**

Magpies hit a six at Rotherham United

Newcastle United's first team travelled to Rotherham United and came away with the three points with a 6-3 win to record two back to back 6-3 wins on the road.

The game was played on an excellent playing surface at Parkgate and it was the visitors who created two clear scoring chances early on through Kayla Carter and Nicola Divine but both were thwarted by Charlotte Whiteley in the Rotherham goal.

With both teams committed to attack it was the home side that took the lead on 14 mins when a ball over the top of Newcastle's left back Vicky Greenwell allowed the home side to get in a cross which was converted at the second attempt by striker Lynskey.

The Toon's answer to this setback was to hit three goals in the space of five minutes through Kayla Carter and a Melanie Reay brace, Newcastle's defence were again caught flat footed as they allowed a Rotherham's Wood to run through and beat Helen Kane from close range to make it 3-2.

Newcastle were creating clear openings with their attacking pace and an excellent turn and pass by Carter set up Ruth Sutcliffe who made no mistake from sixteen yards to put her side 4-2 up.

Carter, Sutcliffe and Reay could all have added to their tally but failed to hit the target, the home side were handed a life line when a hopeful punt forward caught on Jo Cartwright and Helen Kane as they waited for an offside flag which did not arrive allowing Rotherham's Davis to run from a deep position and score to make the half time return of 4-3 to Newcastle.

Newcastle came out much more focussed in the second half and continued to create chances with Sutcliffe (68 mins) and Carter (78 mins) both getting their second goals of the game, an injury to Julie Twardell meant Stacy Crooks took up the right back position, Newcastle's defending in the second period was much more effective keeping the Rotherham attack at bay and dealing with any aerial threat with much more belief.

The pace of the visitors attack continued to cause the Rotherham rearward problems and only some last ditch defending kept the final score 6-3 to Newcastle.

Rob Atkin NUWFC Head coach "We have to be

pleased with the three points and once again hitting six goals away from home but we need to kill the game off much earlier and stop giving silly goals away."

Atkin continues "The strength in depth of the squad is now starting to pay dividends and we look forward to the midweek game at home to Sunderland in a confident mood"

(above from www.nuwfc.co.uk)

FA TESCO PREMIER LEAGUE NORTHERN DIVISION

Aston Villa 5-2 Tranmere Rovers
 Aston Villa rose to fourth place with a 5-2 thrashing of Tranmere. Lisa Sharred and Cherelle Archibald scored in the final ten minutes of the first-half, with Carly Davies and Arrowsmith extending the lead to 4-0 by the 63rd minute. Tranmere rallied late on with replies from Rachel Rigby and Helen King but Hannah Smith rounded off the home win in the last minute.

Crewe Alexandra 1-3 Sunderland
 Sunderland's 3-1 win at Crewe was their first since last season's relegation and leaves the hosts without a point from their opening three games. But it was Alex who struck first, with Michaela Thompson scoring in the 41st minute. Sarah Danby levelled after 25 minutes and Stephanie Bannon put the Black Cats ahead eight minutes into the second-half. But victory was not cemented until Rachel Lee converted a penalty, three minutes from full-time.

Nottingham Forest 3-0 Manchester City
 Nottingham Forest sunk Manchester City by three goals to nil, but left it to the final 30 minutes to claim the points (pictured celebrating a goal). First-half gilt-edged chances for Forest's Natalie Clarke and Reanne Thomas but the industrious and persistent Clarke eventually came through for the home side on 61 minutes, as a 50-50 ball went in her favour to slide home on the six-yard line. Clarke then fired home a half-volley to lead 2-0 on 81 minutes. Emily Simpkins delivered an inch perfect cross for Reanne Thomas at the far post, who duly finished with a cushioned header beyond City's keeper on the 86 minute.

Forest Manager, Lisa Dawkins, said: "Absolutely delighted with the result. After a mediocre first half we asked the players to give another 20% in the second half and as a result we were competing for, and winning, the ball. We were attacking as a unit and ended up playing some really good football. Overall, and not wanting to sound arrogant, I think we deserved the win and with 3 wins from 3 game – it is all u can ask for as a start to the season.

Rotherham United 3-6 Newcastle United
 Rotherham suffered another hefty defeat, going down 6-3 at home to Newcastle United, as they struggle to settle in the Premier League with 19 goals conceded in four games. However, it was Rotherham who went ahead, with a Helen Lynskey goal on 14 minutes, netted at the second attempt. But Newcastle turned the game around in only 6 minutes, as Kayla Carter and Mel Reay (2) put them 3-1 up. Newcastle's defence were caught flat-footed as Wood ran through to make it 3-2, but an excellent turn and pass by Carter set up Ruth Sutcliffe to hit the visitors fourth. Carter, Sutcliffe and Reay could all have added to their tally but failed to hit the target and the home side were handed a lifeline when a hopeful punt forward caught on Jo Cartwright and Helen Kane as they waited for an offside flag which did not arrive, allowing Suzanne Davis to run from a deep position and score to make the half time return of 4-3 to Newcastle.

Sutcliffe (68 mins) and Carter (78 mins) both added their second goals of the game. Newcastle's defending in the second period was much more effective, keeping the Rotherham attack at bay and dealing with any aerial threat with much more belief.

Sheffield Wednesday 0-2 Preston North End
 Preston moved to the top of the Northern Division, the 2-0 result at Sheffield Wednesday being their fourth win in a row. Gemma Watson got them off to a fine start with a 5th minute opener, which Louise Cafferkey added to on 25 minutes.

Stockport County 0-3 Lincoln City
 Lincoln City won the top of the table clash at Stockport, netting three times without reply, with Snelson bagging a brace. Snelson's first came on 29 minutes courtesy of an inch-perfect through-ball from Sophie Barker, one-on-one with the Stockport keeper, Snelson slotting easily from 10 yards.

Snelson added her second 6 minutes from half time when she chased down a high long-ball into the area, with the ball bouncing awkwardly for the keeper, Snelson was able to successfully challenge in the air and head the ball over the advancing keeper to give the visiting team a commanding 2-0 lead at half time.

Stacey Aisthorpe sealed the win, quick feet and one-touch passing all over the pitch, carved up the chasing Stockport defence. The ball eventually found it's way to Aisthorpe inside the box, where she skilfully squeezed the ball passed the Stockport keeper.

The day wasn't made any easier for Stockport when their key player Charlotte Higginson was sent off following a double yellow card. To Stockport's credit, although City hit the bar off a powerful Kate

Wooldridge header, County kept the scoresheet down to 3-0 and did not concede following Higginson's dismissal 20 minutes into the second half.

(Individual reports from www.fgmag.com)

Preston North End won 2-0 away to Sheffield Wednesday to assume the Northern Division leadership for the first time.

Gemma Watson gave Preston the lead after five minutes and Louise Cafferkey completed the win with the second goal, midway through the first half.

The Lancashire side lead by three points from favourites Lincoln City, who ended the winning start of Stockport County by beating them 3-0. Jodie Snelson kept up her superb goalscoring form by netting two first half goals, with Stacey Aisthorpe adding the third ten minutes after half time.

Nottingham Forest are the third side in the division which still sports a 100% record, notching up a 3-0 success over Manchester City. After a goalless first half, Natalie Clarke opened up the scoring just after the hour and the in-form striker added her second with a neat half volley, Reanne Thomas heading in the third goal late on for Forest who meet Lincoln on Thursday.

Aston Villa made sure of getting back to winning ways as they defeated Tranmere Rovers 5-2. Lisa Sharred and Cherelle Archibald gave Villa a two-goal lead at half time with Carly Davies and Stacey Arrowsmith doubling their advantage after the break. Rachel Rigby and Sarah Manning pulled goals back for Tranmere with Hannah Smith completing the win for Villa in the dying minutes.

Sunderland recovered from an early setback to win 3-1 away to Crewe Alexandra. Michaela Thompson had given Crewe the lead after four minutes but Sunderland hit back, Sarah Danby levelling the scores before Steph Bannon put in front early in the second half and Rachel Lee secured the points from the penalty spot, three minutes from time.

Newcastle Utd bagged their first league victory of the season, 6-3 at Rotherham Utd who are still seeking their first points. Helen Lynskey put Rotherham ahead with Michaela Carter equalising barely a minute later, Melanie Reay then struck twice in quick succession and Ruth Sutcliffe added a fourth on the half hour but Rotherham fought back, Hayley Wood and Suzanne Davies reducing the deficit to one by half time. Midway through the second half, Reay completed her hat-trick and Carter her double to wrap up the win for Newcastle.

(round up from www.womenssoccerscene.co.uk)

2007 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP SCHEDULE

Group A					
Date	Match	score	Venue	KO	
10 Sep 07	Monday	Germany v Argentina	11-0	Shanghai	1pm
11 Sep 07	Tuesday	Japan v England	2-2	Shanghai	1pm
14 Sep 07	Friday	Argentina v Japan		Shanghai	10am
14 Sep 07	Friday	England v Germany		Shanghai	1pm
17 Sep 07	Monday	Germany v Japan		Hangzhou	1pm
17 Sep 07	Monday	England v Argentina		Chengdu	1pm
Group B					
Date	Match	score	Venue	KO	
11 Sep 07	Tuesday	USA v North Korea	2-2	Chengdu	10am
11 Sep 07	Tuesday	Nigeria v Sweden	1-1	Chengdu	1pm
14 Sep 07	Friday	Sweden v USA		Chengdu	10am
14 Sep 07	Friday	North Korea v Nigeria		Chengdu	1pm
18 Sep 07	Tuesday	Nigeria v USA		Shanghai	1pm
18 Sep 07	Tuesday	North Korea v Sweden		Tianjin	1pm
Group C					
Date	Match	score	Venue	KO	
12 Sep 07	Wednesday	Ghana v Australia	1-4	Hangzhou	10am
12 Sep 07	Wednesday	Norway v Canada	2-1	Hangzhou	1pm
15 Sep 07	Saturday	Canada v Ghana		Hangzhou	10am
15 Sep 07	Saturday	Australia v Norway		Hangzhou	1pm
19 Sep 07	Wednesday	Norway v Ghana		Shanghai	10am
19 Sep 07	Wednesday	Australia v Canada		Chengdu	10am
Group D					
Date	Match	score	Venue	KO	
12 Sep 07	Wednesday	New Zealand v Brazil	0-5	Wuhan	10am
12 Sep 07	Wednesday	China v Denmark	3-2	Wuhan	1pm
15 Sep 07	Saturday	Denmark v New Zealand		Wuhan	10am
15 Sep 07	Saturday	Brazil v China		Wuhan	1pm
19 Sep 07	Wednesday	China v New Zealand		Tianjin	1pm
19 Sep 07	Wednesday	Brazil Denmark		Hangzhou	1pm
Quarter-Finals					
Date	Match	score	Venue	KO	
22 Sep 07	Saturday	QF1 - Winner A v Runner-up B		Wuhan	10am
22 Sep 07	Saturday	QF2 - Winner B v Runner-up A		Tianjin	1pm
23 Sep 07	Sunday	QF3 - Winner C v Runner-up D		Wuhan	10am
23 Sep 07	Sunday	QF4 - Winner D v Runner-up C		Tianjin	1pm
Semi-Finals					
Date	Match		Venue	KO	
26 Sep 07	Wednesday	QF1 v QF3		Tianjin	1pm
27 Sep 07	Thursday	QF2 v QF4		Hangzhou	1pm
Third place play-off					
Date	Match		Venue	KO	
30 Sep 07	Sunday	LSF1 v LSF2		Shanghai	10am
Final					
Date	Match		Venue	KO	
30 Sep 07	Sunday	WSF1 v WSF2		Shanghai	1pm

Rotherham Utd Ladies Development Fixtures 07/08:

Date	Opponents	Venue	Result
9 th Sept	Brunsmeer	away	11-1
16 th Sept	CARCROFT	Home	HPF
23 rd Sept	Dinnington	away	
30 th Sept	HANDSWORTH	Home	KRG
7 th Oct	LEAGUE CUP (1)	BYE	
14 th Oct	Rossington	away	
28 th Oct	STEEL CITY WANDERERS RES	Home	KRG
4 th Nov	Athersley	away	
11 th Nov	BRUNSMEEER CUP (2)	Home	
18 th Nov	BRINSWORTH WHITEHILL	Home	KRG
25 th Nov	BRUNSMEEER	Home	KRG
2 nd Dec	Carcroft	away	
9 th Dec	DINNINGTON	Home	KRG
16 th Dec	Handsworth	away	
6 th Jan	ROSSINGTON	Home	KRG
20 th Jan	Steel City Wanderers res	away	
27 th Jan	ATHERSLEY	Home	KRG
3 rd Feb	Brinsworth Whitehill	away	
10 th Feb	LEAGUE CUP (3)		

HPF	Herringthorpe Playing Fields
KRG	Kilnhurst Recreation Ground.

Note: Rotherham Town have withdrawn from League

Congratulations on the opening game victory - scorers were

Rachel Hale 4, Tayla Khan 2, Sarah Saxon 2, Lizzie Tester, Samantha Hale and Leanne Coms



SWFC were formed at the Star Inn Public House in Rotherham 1971 after a charity match between men and women at the pub. The team was initially named "Star Ladies". It wasn't long before the side joined the Sheffield Ladies League and when this league was disbanded they joined the Nottinghamshire League which was later renamed the East Midlands Ladies League.

They took the name Sheffield Wednesday Ladies in 1985 and then subsequently when the FA created the AXA FA Women's League Sheffield Wednesday Ladies became founder members.

CLUB HONOURS

Northern Combination Winners 2007

East Midlands League Champions 1991
East Midlands League Cup Winners 1991
East Midlands Div 2 Champions 1982

Sheffield & Hallamshire County Cup

Winners 1999, 2000 & 2007
Runners up 2004

Record Win

26-1 V's Fisholt East Midlands League 1981

Record Defeat

0-22 V Doncaster Belles Women's FA Cup 1979

Sheffield Wednesday regained their place in the FA Tesco Women's Premier League last spring when they clinched the Northern Combination title in a three-way race ahead of Leeds City Vixens and Middlesbrough.

They are back in the Northern Division after a two year absence and will be seeking to avoid the end of season drama of their last three seasons in the FAWPL when relegation followed two narrow escapes from the drop, the 2003 escape might have been described as too far fetched for fiction, but football fact is often stranger than football fiction. (Witness England's opening World Cup match against Japan yesterday when impending defeat was turned into seeming victory only for Japan to level with a last kick of the game free kick).

Dan Duke, previously coach at SWLFC, has succeeded Christine McCann as manager and Wednesday have a new home base this season of Maltby Miners Welfare. Previous home bases have included Hallam, Staveley, Middlewood Training Ground, Woodbourne Road, Sheffield United Cricket Club (Bawtry Road) and Penistone Church while matches have also taken place at Hillsborough, Don Valley Stadium, Herringthorpe Valley Stadium, Warminster Road and Dinnington.

High profile names to have played for Wednesday include Vicky Exley, currently in China with England's World Cup squad, Leanne Hall, former England international keeper who is currently assistant manager at Leeds United, Clare Wheatley, involved behind the scenes at Arsenal where she enjoyed several trophy winning seasons and Jo Broadhurst (many moons ago in the club's pre-Wednesday era I believe)

FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

GROUP A

England Suffer Last-Kick Equaliser

Tuesday September 11th
Japan 2-2 England

A dramatic last ten minutes saw Kelly Smith turn the game around for England with a quick brace, before Aya Miyama smashed home a second free-kick for Japan with the very last kick of the game.

Early in the game, Rachel Brown was fast to clear after Mary Phillip lost her footing and later guided Eriko Arakawa's effort around the post.

Great play by Smith saw Aluko's shot saved, whilst Karen Carney was denied a free-kick despite being lugged back when clean through.

Katie Chapman was cautioned for a foul on Homare Sawa, after a good move Aya Miyama cleared the bar and Shinobu Ohno could only pass back to Brown when meeting a cross.

Chapman went close to the top-right at the second attempt and Carney's powerful strike was just lacking a touch from Faye White.

Chapman's goalbound free-kick was headed clear by Sawa, before Aluko's missed chance. Having snatched Kelly Smith's pass from the challenge of keeper Miho Fukumoto, Aluko dragged the ball wide of an open goal from the corner of the area.

In the second-half, Japan's keeper turned Fara Williams clear chance away from danger and Chapman had a shot well blocked from Smith's cross.

But on 55 minutes, Chapman conceded a central free-kick 25 yards out and Miyama's strike beat Brown's full-length dive.

Smith immediately responded but a defensive block denied her, Fukumoto stopped Carney's effort, with Smith drilling into the side-netting.

With England desperate for the ball to fall kindly, Aluko's shot was headed over by a defender from 3 yards and from Carney's great cross Rachel Yankey missed with the goal at her mercy. Carney won a free-kick but Casey Stoney was unable to get a finishing touch to Yankey's delivery.

However, with nine minutes left, Smith held off challenges in the box to tuck away the equaliser. Within two minutes, Smith put England ahead after the keeper had done well to parry her first effort.

Brown took a knock when making a brave challenge at the feet of Arakawa but her side were unlucky to concede a telling free-kick in a dangerous spot, four minutes into time added on. The referee booked Smith, egged on by Miyama, who then concentrated on her task to thump the equaliser into the far corner.

England: Rachel Brown, Alex Scott (Lindsay Johnson, 89), Casey Stoney, Katie Chapman, Faye White, Mary Phillip, Karen Carney, Fara Williams, Eriko Arakawa (Jill Scott, 74), Kelly Smith, Rachel Yankey.

Japan: Miho Fukumoto, Hiromi Isozaki (Yuki Nagasato, 84), Yukari Kinga (Kozue Ando, 46), Tomomi Miyamoto (Ayumi Hara, 71), Tomoe Sakai, Eriko Arakawa, Homare Sawa, Azusa Iwashimizu, Aya Miyama, Shinobu Ohno, Rumi Utsugi.

For the latest reports on the FIFA Women's World Cup visit

<http://www.fgmag.com/news>

England's next match is against World champions Germany on Friday. They conclude their group fixtures against Argentina, who crashed 11-0 to Germany, on Monday.

FA Tesco Women's Premier League

Northern Division

Wednesday 12th September 2007

Rotherham United vs Sheffield Wednesday

at Roundwood Pavillion (kick off 7.15pm)

Rotherham United

	Charlie Whiteley
	Becky Beevers
	Amy Pollock
	Becky Fevers
	Becky Hale
	Bridget Booth
	Carla Baxby
	Claire Needham
	Gemma McCool
	Hayley Sloan
	Hayley Wood
	Helen Lynskey
	Jess McLean
	Katie Durrands
	Katie Hanson
	Kerry Jones
	Kerry Longstone
	Leanne Corns
	Lizzie Tester
	Lynn Goodman
	Sara Thickitt
	Suzanne Davies

Today's match officials

Referee Mr A Thistlewood

Sheffield Wednesday

	Claire Wallhead
	Leanne Severns
	Lucy Smith
	Annette Wale
	Chelsea Williams
	Lucy Foreman
	Beth Gingell
	Rachel Rutherford
	Sarah Smith
	Rachel Skeemer
	Shelly Donohoe
	Collette Shelton
	Kayleigh Mitchell
	Laura Windle
	Christina Skull
	Sarah Hobson
	Leanne De Silva
	Lizzie Gommersal
	Bianca Ross
	Emily Clements
	Becky Crump

Assitant Referees

Mr T Bramall

Mr A Burgess

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY HOME

**NEXT HOME GAME VS ASTON VILLA
SUNDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER (2.00PM)**